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MICHIGAN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JOHN KIVELA
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

October 22, 2015

Tom Wheeler
Chairman
Federal Communication Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

RE: MB Docket No. 15-149

Dear Chairman Wheeler,

As a member of the Michigan House of Representatives, I am proud to advocate for those without a strong voice in government. Rural and underserved communities often lack access that is granted to the rest of America, and nowhere is that more evident than with access to technology. All Americans need broadband these days and it is critical that our government encourages efforts to bring access to those that have been lost in the digital divide.

I fully support proposed cable broadband company New Charter because it would commit to bringing fast and reliable broadband to rural and underserved communities. The company would achieve this effort through strategic investments in broadband infrastructure projects and targeted inclusion programs.

New Charter's rural investment would include efforts to upgrade both commercial and residential networks. The work would bring substantial investments to both areas, resulting in fiber-optic upgrades throughout the country. New Charter would reach out to other underserved communities through its low-income program. This effort would provide high-quality, low-cost broadband to qualified households. I am very impressed with the initiative, and believe it would go a long way to bridging the digital divide.

I fully support New Charter's efforts to improve broadband access for rural and underserved consumers. Please support measures that would upgrade our national infrastructure and reach out to communities of need, and approve the merger.

Respectfully submitted,

John Kivela
Michigan State Representative
109th State House District

